

Minutes of 12/14/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee

Attending: John Morris, Rich Phillips, Dan Chodorkoff, Lawrence Black, Bob Atchinson, Anne Miller, Ed Hutchinson, & Saul Gresser

Convene: aprx 6:40 PM

Business:

1) VECAN conference report:

A) Dan reported from the community power workshop on the example from the town of Norwich that received funds through a federal Clean Renewable Energy Bond (CREB). Questions about the program persist, but this method appears to be easier and more effective for the town than the current state iteration of the Clean Energy Assessment District (CEAD) legislation that our sub-committee on local generation had been pursuing. The committee expressed interest in pursuing this avenue for funding local community power generation projects. Further research to be undertaken by local generation sub-committee (Rich, Dan, Saul) and reported back. Rich agreed to e-mail Peter Adamczyk from Efficiency Vermont regarding specific concerns with the CEAD legislation and steps to address these concerns.

B) Bob gave brief overviews of several items:

- 1) the funding session where discussion focused on, among other ideas, the notion of allowing bonds to individuals rather than to towns.
- 2) a project assessment session that did a good job of walking through an analysis of project feasibility.
- 3) Andy Shapiro's (Energy Balance, Inc.) use of toys as classroom energy teaching tools.
- 4) the Middlebury Town street light grant and the savings earned by conservation and replacement with LEDs
- 5) Bernie Sanders' address to the conference by phone, highlighting the importance of grassroots power in the development of energy solutions.
- & 6) last, but not least, the amazing rail trail moose Prius ride home!

C) Rich discussed further the Middlebury LED town lighting replacement project and the Public Service Board's approval of changes to the current lighting tariff, and further, how these will likely affect Marshfield's current town lighting grant request.

2) Town Weatherization Teams

A lengthy conversation ensued regarding the make-up and charge of town weatherization teams. Rich has indicated in the current Field Notes that weatherization teams are available to help residents assess weatherization needs and access weatherization programs and materials. All agreed this was our goal. The "how to" was the content of the discussion. All committee members agreed to participate as members of the weatherization teams. It was agreed that further training would be needed. Ed, Dan, Anne, John, Bob, et al agreed to attend trainings as schedules permitted. Anne suggested that a sort of "labor revolving loan fund" approach be considered for the expansion of the program. This would be a way for those who have benefited from the program to work on others' homes by sharing their training forward with another family. More work is needed here to flesh out this idea. Also, more outreach is needed to recruit others who may be willing to join the weatherization teams (perhaps first from those folks who were earlier involved in the energy walk-through program). The overarching make-up of the weatherization teams program would be as follows: two people per team; 1st home walk through would include an intake form, an assessment of needs and to some degree the capacity of the resident(s) to fill those needs or cover the costs for upgrades independent of social service organization assistance. The creation of a material list and the offer of referrals where appropriate would also be included in this initial visit. Depending on the scope of the work needed, an appointment would be made to have the work completed at a later date. The weatherization teams would have materials on hand. Dan agreed to investigate additional funds for weatherization materials. Bob already can get a discount on some materials through Energy Federated Incorporated, which he said is available to anybody through their wholesale catalog internet site: EFI.org. [It was noted that we already have 8 kilowatt meters to lend and should consider purchasing infrared thermometers that

also could be loaned out. There is \$300.00 remaining from the NE Grassroots Environmental Fund grant that could be used for this purpose]. Weatherization teams would also have the training necessary to complete modest weatherization upgrades including foam, caulk, weather stripping, and reusable plastic on windows. Work-up sheets for work to be done are needed. It was suggested that we use the ones created by Efficiency Vermont. In addition to materials and simple installation assistance, referrals to CVCAC and the Button-up program as well as information regarding current local, state, and federal incentives and rebates would be available (see for example, DSIRE, EV, and perhaps VPIRG's latest publication on this subject). Assistance applying for the same will also be available. Liability issues will need to be addressed and some sort of release form approved by the selectboard will be investigated and applied as warranted. Bob indicated that Plainfield residents should contact him or Karl Bissex (Plainfield Area Community Association (PACA)) or the Board for possible access to community assistance grant funds. Rich and Bob indicated that, at least through January 22nd, they would be the contacts for weatherization team assistance.

3) The Infrared Thermometer

Anne gave a brief demonstration of her new infrared thermometer which easily and quickly provides a read out of surface temperatures around a room. It costs only \$30 and has a 4°C accuracy. It was agreed that the committee would look into purchasing more thermometers that could be loaned out to town residents.

4) Budget Request

The town selectboard asked for a budget request from the energy committee for next year. After a brief discussion, the committee agreed to request \$500 for the upcoming year. Rich to forward our request to Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk.

5) Announcements/Updates:

A) The transportation meeting scheduled for January 6th or 7th has been rescheduled for the 14th.

B) The Twinfield PV Grant is being reworked and sent back to the school board for action. New iteration calls for the solicitation of an energy consultant who will develop the RFP for install proposals.

C) The following members of the ECCC have resigned Andy Perchlek (citing possible conflict of interest due to new employment) and John Medose (citing time commitments).

6) Website Review:

Discussion of energy committee website and potential online forum: John went over the website as he has currently developed it. Suggestions included adding minutes, creating a Field Notes articles archive, including a long-term reminders section that would have, for example, the regular committee meeting date listed and the fact that we are always looking for additional volunteers. John will address these issues as well as editorial changes suggested: deleting of "pertinent" from item #2, and "various" from item #5. Further work is needed to update and expand links. Anne agreed to help John with this item, including adding a link to VECAN, DESIRE, and possibly VPIRG websites {Rich will provide VPIRG information/link, if pertinent} and including contact information for those homeowners that have allowed us to use their names as resources (e.g. those participates in the renewable energy home tours). Further, a clear link to the town's website will be added. One question: Do we want to count the number of hits the site receives? Unanswered.

Regarding the forum. At this time, the committee declined to pursue the creation of an online forum through our webpage. On Hold.

Thanks to John for his work thus far.

Next meeting: January 11th, 6:30, OSC. Among other agenda items: Rich to discuss PV promotion approach

Meeting adjourned 8:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser